



The Washington Connection

Congresswoman **Candice Miller**

THE WEEK AHEAD

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Rep. Miller Announces New Committee Assignments

Will Serve on House Armed Services, Transportation Committees

U.S. Representative Candice Miller announced last week that she will retain her seat on the House Armed Services Committee and was appointed to serve as a member of the influential House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for the first time.

"I am proud and pleased to continue my service on the House Armed Services Committee," Rep. Miller said. "I aggressively pursued a seat on this committee when I first took office because I believe the first and foremost responsibility of the federal government is to provide for the national defense. Also the 10th Congressional District has deep connections with the military with the presence of Selfridge Air National Guard Base, the Head-

quarters of General Dynamics Land Systems and many other defense contractors and military families. I am proud to serve as an advocate for all the military stake holders in our district. We are also a nation at war, and providing quality oversight in support of the brave men and women who are fighting that war is essential, and as Michigan's only Representative on the House Armed Services Committee, I take this responsibility very seriously.

"I am also ready to get to work on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as one of two Michigan Members on the Committee," Rep. Miller continued. "Congressman Ehlers has and will continue to be a strong advocate for the transportation needs of the west

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Rep Miller's Statement on the President's State of the Union Address

"I am concerned that the plan the President laid out to increase CAFE standards would have a negative impact on our domestic auto industry. While I support fuel efficiency and greater independence from foreign oil, I believe there are other ways to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. I look forward to working in a bipartisan fashion to advance the technology that would achieve these goals in a manner that would benefit the

American auto industry without costing Michigan jobs."

"I appreciate that the President laid out new benchmarks to measure progress as we move forward in Iraq, however I remain extremely hesitant to embrace his plans out of concern that the Iraqis will not be able to live up to their commitments. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee I look forward to providing the necessary oversight to see that they do so, and in

short order, or America will have to re-examine our commitment to Iraq."

*****Visit Congresswoman Miller's website (<http://candicemiller.house.gov>) to listen to her interview with Paul W. Smith on WJR about the President's energy plan.**

Rep. Miller's New Committee Assignments (Continued...)

(Continued from page 1)

side of the state, and I will have the opportunity to serve as the voice for the east side of the state. Southeast Michigan has never gotten our fair share of tax dollars returned for our many infrastructure needs, and the explosive growth areas of northern Macomb County have been particularly shortchanged. These areas urgently need new roads and infrastructure to ensure a continued high quality of life and to further economic growth. Also, the Blue Water Bridge Plaza Project, one of the largest transportation projects in the state, is a vital

component to economic expansion not just in our district, but for the region, state and nation. I will now be in position to provide enhanced oversight to ensure that the project is done right.

"In addition to these important transportation issues, the Transportation Committee has jurisdiction over water quality issues, and protecting our Great Lakes has been a principal advocacy of mine throughout my career in public service. This seat will allow me to be more vocal and wield more influence in policies designed to preserve and protect our most cherished natural re-

source. The Clean water act, the Water Resources and Development Act, and all invasive species and ballast water issues fall under the jurisdiction of this committee. In addition I will also have oversight over sewer upgrades, which is so important for Michigan because inadequate sewer infrastructure has caused so many of the pollution problems of the Great Lakes.

"I am very pleased with these committee assignments, and I am ready to get to work on behalf of my constituents in the 110th Congress."

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Rep. Miller Announces Funding for Chesterfield Township

Detroit News Article: \$330K grant will help redevelop military complex

By Ed Cardenas, Detroit News

Chesterfield Township—Chesterfield Township has received a \$330,110 grant for the redevelopment of the Seville Manor military housing property near the Selfridge Air National Guard Base, U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, R-Harrison Township, announced Monday.

At a news conference in the 103-acre housing complex that was closed in 2005, Miller said the township's Land Redevelopment Authority will be able to draw from those funds for planning and development of the property, located two miles north of the base.

"No one has been more in the forefront than Chesterfield Township," Miller said of the township's effort to redevelop the property.

Township and federal officials did not reveal which agency may receive the property.

"There are many facets of this process that we must follow for the ... closure. It is a lengthy process," said Kelly Jo Smolarek, Chesterfield Township treasurer and chairwoman of the authority.

Multiple agencies have applied to acquire the land. World Wide Crusade for Christ wants to use the property to house the homeless, as do three agencies: Macomb Homeless Coalition, Family Youth Intervention and Perfection Community Development Corp. The Chesterfield Township Library and Township Parks and Recreation also applied for public uses.

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Rep. Miller presents a check for \$330,110 to Chesterfield Twp. Officials. From left to right: Chesterfield Township Supervisor Jim Ellis, Clerk Kelly Jo Smolarek, Congresswoman Miller, and Treasurer Pamela Harris in front of the Seville Manor Property.

Rep. Miller Announces Effort to Preserve Michigan Transportation Dollars

State stands to lose more than \$90,000,000 without Congressional action

U.S. Representative Candice Miller announced last week she joined her colleagues on the House Transportation Committee in signing a letter urging House Leadership to preserve over \$90 million in vital federal road funding that the state of Michigan could lose this year. The funding is in jeopardy due to a decision by House Leadership to freeze spending levels at FY06 levels, which precludes individual states, including Michigan, from receiving the funding escalation that it was authorized for 2007 in the 2005 Highway Bill.

“We all understand the tough economic times facing our state and a loss of such a significant amount of

road dollars is unacceptable as we try and grow our economy. As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I am prepared to fight to see that Michigan gets every last dollar of road money it is entitled to,” Rep. Miller said. “Last year the House passed funding bills that would have given Michigan the money we need to move forward, but the Senate failed to act. Right now our state stands to lose over \$90 million because of this inaction, which is simply unacceptable. This could have damaging consequences for MDOT and local transportation authorities across the state who had been counting on this funding to complete critical road projects. Our state cannot afford to have important projects stalled and thou-

sands of jobs put at risk due to an inaction by Congress.”

“The effort to restore this funding is also an example of bi-partisan cooperation demanded by the voters in the November election. Each and every member, Republican and Democrat, serving on the Transportation Committee joined together to urge appropriators to restore this needed funding. It is my pledge to continue to work with all of my colleagues to ensure that the safety of our roads and strength of our economy are not compromised,” Miller concluded.

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Macomb Daily Article: Miller gets more control over road funds on Transportation Committee

By Chad Selweski Macomb Daily Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Candice Miller's appointment to the House Transportation Committee on Wednesday could pave the way for federal funding to end the traffic gridlock on Macomb County roads.

“All you have to do is look at the situation in north Macomb and it shows why this is such a good committee assignment. This is a coup for Macomb County,” said Miller, a Har-

rison Township Republican.

Miller will be seated as one of two Michigan representatives on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Rep. Vern Ehlers of Grand Rapids will serve as Capitol Hill's voice for western Michigan on the panel and Miller will play the role of advocate for eastern Michigan, particularly the Detroit area.

But Miller said she will adopt a parochial position, seeking to steer more federal dollars to northern Macomb County where numerous two-lane

roads have created bottlenecks after the tremendous population growth of recent years in the northern townships.

The appointment comes as local municipalities and the Macomb County Road Commission have struggled to provide the necessary matching funds to proceed with delayed road projects. In addition, state officials have complained for years that Michigan does not receive its fair share of road dollars compared to the federal gas taxes paid by state motorists.

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Washington Connection Weekly



This Week's Radio Address:

Rep. Miller's New Committee Assignments



Miller gets more control over road funds (Continued...)

(Continued from page 3)

"It has to be a (federal-local) partnership that we create," said Miller, a former Harrison Township supervisor. "That's going to be my goal. I'm going to be working with these local communities and with the road commission. Whenever I talk to township supervisors and ask what problems they face, they always answer first with one word: roads."

Macomb County's other federal lawmaker, Rep. Sander Levin, will continue serving on the House Ways and Means Committee as the No. 3-ranking Democrat. A Royal Oak Democrat who represents most of Macomb County, Levin is also slated to be named as chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade in the coming days.

Serving her third term in Congress, Miller retained her seat on the House Armed Services Committee but gave

up her positions on the House Administration Committee and Government Reform Committee, including a spot as chair of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs.

She had lobbied for Armed Services and Transportation, even if it meant surrendering her other posts. The wife of former Selfridge Air National Guard Base commander Don Miller, Rep. Miller has relished her position on Armed Services because of the location of Selfridge, in Harrison Township, and the General Dynamics Land Systems headquarters, in Sterling Heights, within her district.

With Republicans now in the House minority and a new Capitol Hill emphasis on reducing the number of budget "earmarks" for specific projects, such as road construction, Miller acknowledged that her ability to "bring home the bacon" will be more difficult in the 110th

Congress.

But the House will be writing a new federal highway bill in two years, presenting numerous legislative opportunities to expand Macomb's inadequate roadways. In addition, Miller's seat on a Transportation Committee with wide-ranging jurisdiction offers other advantages for Macomb County.

The panel oversees water quality issues, waterway dredging, sewer improvement projects, controls on invasive species in the Great Lakes, Coast Guard operations, and aviation services. Those duties could help Macomb in its ongoing battle against pollution in Lake St. Clair, the effort to maintain an effective Coast Guard presence along the lakeshore, and a bid to improve the facilities at Romeo State Airport.

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